

COMMENTS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated April 19, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire July 19, 2004. In the present Amendment, Claims 1 and 6 are amended, and Claims 4 and 8 are cancelled. Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-16 are now pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

In the present Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Nguyen, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,311,014 B1 - "*Nguyen*"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and request that they be withdrawn and all claims allowed.

Allowed/Allowable Claims

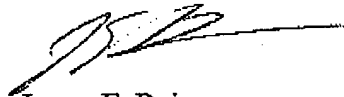
Applicants note with appreciation that in paragraph 12 of the present Office Action, the Examiner has allowed Claims 11-16. Applicants also note in paragraph 11 of the present Office Action, the Examiner has stated that Claims 4 and 8 would be allowed if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base/intervening claim(s). Applicants have now incorporated the feature(s) of Claim 4 into independent Claim 1, and similarly the feature(s) of Claim 8 into independent Claim 6. Thus, all pending claims should now be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Having complied with the suggestions of the Examiner, Applicants now respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

No extension of time for this response is believed to be necessary. However, in the event an extension of time is required, that extension of time is hereby requested. Please charge any fee associated with an extension of time as well as any other fee necessary to further the prosecution of this application to **IBM CORPORATION DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. 50-0563**.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Boice
Registration No. 44,545
DILLON & YUDELL LLP
8911 North Capital of Texas Highway
Suite 2110
Austin, Texas 78759
512.343.6116

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)